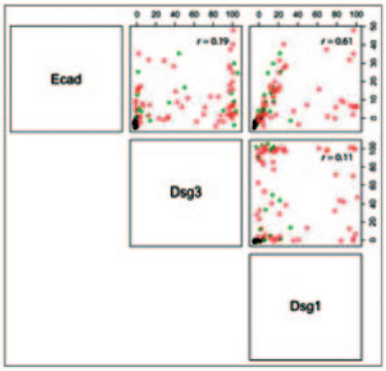
## *MC1R* variant p.R163Q and lentigo maligna melanoma risk

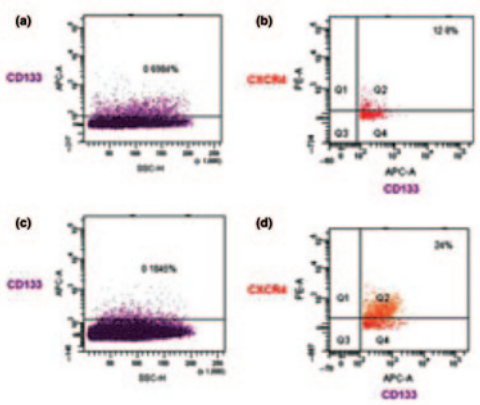
This association study investigated *MC1R* gene variants and clinicopathological subtypes of primary melanomas derived from 1679 patients. The authors concluded that certain *MC1R* variants could increase melanoma risk due to their impact on pathways other than pigmentation, and may therefore be linked to specific melanoma subtypes. *Br J Dermatol* 2013; doi: 10.1111/bjd.12418.

## E-cadherin autoantibody profile in pemphigus vulgaris




This study reported analysis of the anti-E-cadherin autoantibody profile of 80 patients with mucosal and mucocutaneous pemphigus vulgaris. Sera were studied by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay and immunoprecipitation coupled with Western blotting. Anti-E-cadherin antibodies were present in patients with both major subtypes of pemphigus vulgaris. Moderate correlation was found between desmoglein and E-cadherin antibodies. The authors conclude that the autoantibody profile does not permit a clear distinction between different clinical variants of pemphigus vulgaris. *Br J Dermatol* 2013; doi: 10.1111/bjd.12455.

## CD133 content in melanomas




This study investigated the hypothesis that the phenotypic heterogeneity of human cutaneous melanomas is a function of their stem cell content, as defined by cells expressing CD133. Twenty-nine tumours from the four classic types of melanoma were analysed. Additionally, the percentage of CD133+ cells was calculated for melanomas from sun-exposed and covered sites. The authors reported that CD133+ cells were significantly more common in melanomas arising in exposed sites vs. covered sites, in melanoma *in situ* vs. invasive melanoma, and in lentigo maligna melanoma vs. acral lentiginous melanoma. *Br J Dermatol* 2013; doi: 10.1111/bjd.12428.